



004002-33309.JBM.254206

Atty. Docket 4002-3309

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:)
)
Branch et al.) Before the Examiner
)
Serial No. 10/645,413)
) Group Art Unit
Filed August 21, 2003)
)
INTERBODY FUSION GRAFTS AND)
INSTRUMENTATION)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please consider this Preliminary Amendment in the above-captioned application prior to examination.

It is believed that no fee is required for consideration of the submitted items. Should any fee be required, however, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this submission. Remarks begin on page 3 of this submission.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
<u>January 5, 2004</u>	(Date of Deposit)
<u>James B. Myers, Jr.</u>	
Name of Registered Representative	
<u>James B. Myers, Jr.</u>	Signature
<u>January 5, 2004</u>	Date of Signature